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Brooke F Adams 09/19/2006 11:20:44 AM From DB/Inbox: Brooke F Adams

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Text:

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 00511

SIPDIS
CXCAIRO:
ACTION: ECON
INFO: POL NAMRU IPS FAS DCM AID MGT

DISSEMINATION: SCI
CHARGE: PROG

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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1226
INFO RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 1389
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0425
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0447
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 0553
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0023
RUEHVT/AMEMBASSY VALLETTA 0107
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 0309
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 000511

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/MAG GAVITO, OES FOR BOB SENSENEY; COMMERCE FOR
MASON; HHS FOR JANE
COURY, BILL STIEGER; CAIRO FOR DR. MARIE RICCIARDONE, NAMRU 3

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [TBIO](#) [UNEP](#) [EPA](#) [HHS](#) [LY](#)
SUBJECT: LIBYAN ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY: HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL
PLANNING

1. Summary: On September 13, 2006 ESTH Officer met with Dr. Abul-Hakim Al-Waer, Secretary of the Libyan Environment Authority (LEA), or as he joked with, "The EPA without the protection." The meeting took place on the margins of the ongoing NDF Chemical Weapons Destruction Assistance Program. Dr. Waer mentioned specifically that the LEA had been charged with destroying/incinerating/neutralizing several caustic and hazardous agents/wastes in accordance with various environmental agreements to which they had either signed, or aspire to sign. These items for destruction included PCB's, transformer oil, pesticides left from Italian residents in the 1930's, and hazardous medical wastes. He inquired as to the utility of the CWD incinerator and neutralization equipment in such an operation. The incinerator and neutralization equipment being installed for the chemical weapon and precursor destruction activities is not technically sufficient to provide this sort of service. In addition, its proposed remote location in the Libyan desert would not lend itself as a practical solution to the LEA's responsibilities. Dr. Waer desires to establish a solution to the immediate problem of existing waste stockpiles, with additional consideration of disposing of future waste. Dr. Waer said he had a budget of LD 57 Million in 2007 funds to address this disposal problem, (including PCB's, Medical Waste and other hazardous wastes) and would be seeking solutions in 2007/2008. End Summary.

PCB's Deemed Toughest to Destroy

2. According to the NDF team's chemical experts attending the

meeting, the PCB's are the toughest to destroy of the materials he listed. Dr. Waer mentioned the Government of Libya (GOL) might subcontract PCB disposal to a country with existing expertise. He cited that Libya routinely provided transit rights through its territorial waters to South Korean vessels carrying PCB's enroute to France for destruction. Considering South Korea's technical prowess, and the fact that they subcontract this work, Dr. Waer believed it would be fruitless to pursue such technologies internally.

Medical Waste First Priority

13. The medical waste, however, Libya intends to process locally. Dr. Waer discussed creating mobile station operations or establishing collection routes for a central disposal facility, but did not have a concrete idea as to how the LEA might establish such a program. Embassy requests any expression of interest in cooperating with the LEA on this issue. Dr. Waer indicated that Liquid Clinical Waste from medical facilities was the primary concern as the existing stores were a burden to contain and that this category of waste is continually generated.

Future Steps:

14. ESTH Officer requested a meeting with Dr. Waer to further discuss where the U.S. may be able to offer guidance either through assisting in establishing legislation on waste disposal (whether medical or industrial) or offering technical expertise in planning and/or funding. Pending HHS and OES interest in such a dialogue, Embassy will engage as appropriate.

GOLDRICH